What is claimed is:

1. A surgical sponge system, comprising:

a) a surgical sponge having a pocket for receiving a remotely detectable electronic marker;

b) a flap for closing said pocket, said flap having at least one side hingedly attached to said surgical sponge;

c) fastening means for closing and securing said flap to said surgical sponge in the closed position; and

d) a remotely detectable electronic marker inserted within said flap.

2. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said sponge has at least one corner and said pocket is positioned proximate said corner of said sponge.

3. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said sponge has at least one edge and said pocket is positioned proximate said edge of said sponge.

4. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said fastening means comprises a first snap in said flap and a second snap in said sponge, said first and second snaps being mutually engageable.

5. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said fastening means comprises a staple.

6. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said fastening means comprises an adhesive present on at least one of said sponge and said flap.

7. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said fastening means comprises a hook and loop fastening system having a hook portion and a loop

portion, one of said hook portion and said loop portion being affixed to said flap and the other of said hook portion and said loop portion being affixed to said sponge, said hook portion and said loop portion being positioned for mutual engagement.

8. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said fastening means comprises sewing said flap closed.

9. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 1, wherein said fastening means comprises a pressure sensitive tape contactingly engaging said flap and said sponge.

10. A surgical sponge system, comprising:

a) a surgical sponge;

b) a remotely detectable, magnetomechanically resonant electronic marker; and

c) attachment means for attaching said marker to a surface of said surgical sponge.

11. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 10, wherein said sponge has at least one corner and said marker is attached proximate said corner.

12. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 10, wherein said sponge has at least one edge and said marker is attached proximate said edge.

13. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 10, wherein said attachment means comprises an adhesive present on at least one of said marker and said surface of said surgical sponge.

14. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 10, wherein said attachment means comprises a hook and loop fastening system comprising a hook portion and a loop portion, one of said hook portion and said loop portion being

affixed to said marker and the other of said hook portion and said loop portion being affixed to said surgical sponge.

15. A surgical sponge system as recited by claim 10, wherein said attachment means comprises a pressure-sensitive tape.

16. A surgical sponge system, comprising:

a) a surgical sponge;

b) a remotely detectable, radio frequency electronic marker; and

c) attachment means for attaching said marker to a surface of said surgical sponge.

17. A surgical instrument system, comprising:

a) a surgical instrument having a tag connection aperture;

b) an electronic tag;

c) securing means for securing said tag to said instrument at said aperture.

18. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 17, wherein said securing means comprises an elongated anchor attached to said electronic tag and said anchor passes through said aperture.

19. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 18, wherein said anchor is integral with said electronic tag.

20. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 18, wherein said electronic tag has an eyelet and said anchor further passes through said eyelet.

21. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 17, wherein said securing means comprises a rivet.

22. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 17, wherein said securing means comprises a screw.

23. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 17, wherein said electronic tag has an eyelet, said securing means comprises a flexible lanyard, and said lanyard passes through said eyelet and said aperture.

24. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 17, wherein said securing means comprises a flexible loop having two ends, said two ends are attached to said electronic tag, and said tag is inserted through said loop.

25. A surgical instrument system, comprising:

a) a surgical instrument having a well therein sufficient in size to accommodate an electronic tag;

b) an electronic tag disposed in said well; and

c) closure means for securing said tag within said well.

26. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 24, wherein said closure means comprises pressure sensitive tape.

27. A surgical instrument system as recited by claim 25, wherein: said closure means comprises a cover plate for covering said well and securing said tag therein, said cover plate having at least one cover hole therein, and at least one screw; said instrument has at least one threaded hole therein; and said cover plate is attached by said at least one screw passing through said cover hole to threadably engage said threaded hole.